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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659,347	09/11/2003	Mike S. McElroy	23399.00	7092
37833 7590 01/26/2007 LITMAN LAW OFFICES, LTD PO BOX 15035 CRYSTAL CITY STATION ARLINGTON, VA 22215			EXAMINER NGUYEN, CHI Q	
			ART UNIT 3635	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/26/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/659,347	MCELROY, MIKE S.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chi Q. Nguyen	3635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 12-16 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 12-16 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to the applicant's amendment filed on 11/17/2006.

Upon further consideration, the previously stated allowable claims are withdrawn. And with a new art and new ground of rejections are presented as following:

Status Of Claims

Claims 1-11 have been canceled.

Claims 12-16 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. A citation in lines 2-3 "wherein the supplemental door trim is made of a material selected from a group consisting of wood and medium density fiber board" is unclear because applicant's disclosure page 9, lines 16-17 states "the supplemental door trim 100 is made of any suitable material such as wood or medium density fiber board (MDF)" thus for examination purposes, the claim interpret as best understood.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 12-13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat. No. 6,216,395 to Kelly.

Claim 12:

Kelly discloses a threshold protective cover comprising an elongated section of door molding 10, a supplemental door trim 30, said supplemental door trim comprising an elongated, substantially rigid trim section, said trim section having a substantially L-shaped cross-section (see Fig. 5), said substantially L-shaped cross section formed with a base portion 34/35 and an elongated integral section 33, said base portion, having a lower base portion 34 and upper base portion 35, said elongated integral arm section 33 extending from the upper base portion 35 at substantially a right angle thereto, said integral arm section terminating in a free end, wherein said supplement door trim is installed over said elongated section of door molding and said integral arm section and free end overlay said door molding section (Fig. 2).

Claim 13:

As best understood, wherein the supplemental door trim 30 is made of wood (see col. 2, lines 48-49).

Claim 15:

Wherein the integral arm section 33 defines a flat face.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat. No. 6,216,395 to Kelly.

Claim 14:

Kelly discloses basic structures for a door threshold protective cover as stated and further including the integral arm section define a setback (wherein 12 points to) from a door molding 10 (see Fig. 2) but does not specifically disclose a setback of about 0.25" from said door molding. However, this feature would have been a matter of obvious design choice of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. Furthermore, applicant has not disclosed the criticality of this feature.

Claim 16:

Kelly discloses basic structures for a door threshold protective cover as stated and further including the integral arm section defines a flat face (wherein 33 points to see Fig. 2) but does not specifically disclose the integral arm section defines a variable face. However, this feature would have been a matter of obvious design choice of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. Furthermore, applicant has not disclosed the criticality of this feature.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 12-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Chi Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 am-4:00 pm.

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Naoko Slack can be reached at (571) 272-6848.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pairdirect.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197.

CN
1/18/2007